

Oryctes nevadensis S. Watson**ORYCTES**

FAMILY: *Solanaceae*, the nightshade family.

STATUS: **Heritage Program SENSITIVE LIST, ranks: G2G3 S2S3**

USFWS/ESA: species of concern. **STATE OF NEVADA:** none. **BLM:** Special Status Species in Nevada.

USFS: none. **NNNPS:** watch list.

POPULATION CENSUS (NEVADA): **37 occurrences mapped** at 1.0 km (0.6 mi) separation, **OR 68 occurrences mapped** at 0.16 km (0.1 mi) separation; total estimated **individuals 24,000+**, total estimated **area 58.9+ ha (146+ ac)**.
TREND: unknown.

IMPACTS AND MAJOR THREATS (NEVADA): No summary available (see references).

INVENTORY EFFORT (NEVADA): Targeted surveys have been extensive in some areas but have not been comprehensive, and much potential habitat remains to be explored. Most recent entered survey 1998, average year of last survey 1984. **Years since last entered survey** (percent of mapped records at various survey ages): **0-5 yrs:** 2.9%; **11-20 yrs:** 63.2%; **21-30 yrs:** 30.9%; **51+ yrs or unknown:** 2.9%.

LAND MANAGEMENT (NEVADA) in decreasing predominance: private lands, U. S. Bureau of Reclamation, U. S. Bureau of Land Management, Native American lands, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (?), Nevada state lands (?), U. S. Department of Defense (?).

RANGE: Churchill, Esmeralda (?), Humboldt, Mineral, Pershing, Storey (?), and Washoe counties, Nevada; also in CA. Maximum Nevada **range dimension 276.8 km (172.0 mi)** excluding most disjunct record.

ELEVATIONS RECORDED (NEVADA): 3900-5960 feet (1189-1817 meters).

HABITAT (NEVADA): Deep loose sand of stabilized dunes, washes, and valley flats, on various slopes and aspects, variously associated with *Psoralea polydenia*, *Tetradymia tetrameres*, *T. glabrata*, *Sarcobatus vermiculatus*, *S. baileyi*, *Atriplex canescens*, *A. confertifolia*, *Krascheninnikovia lanata*, *Grayia spinosa*, *Eriogonum nummularia*, *Achnatherum hymenoides*, *Hesperostipa comata*, *Oenothera deltoidea*, *Cymopterus corrugatus*, *Penstemon arenarius*, *Gilia micromeria*, *Astragalus geyeri*, *Phacelia bicolor*, *Nama densum*, *N. aretioides*, etc. Dependent on sand dunes or deep sand in Nevada.

PHENOLOGY: flowering late-spring. Range of most frequent **survey months:** May-June.

LIFE-FORM AND HABIT: small annual.

DESCRIPTION: This annual appears only in years with optimal rainfall and temperature patterns, and is therefore difficult to inventory.

PHOTOGRAPHS: Nevada Natural Heritage Program images web page (1998-present), slide collection (1986-present), and files.

ILLUSTRATIONS: Cronquist et al. (1984), Mozingo and Williams (1980).

OTHER GENERAL REFERENCES (listed separately): Hickman (1993).

SPECIFIC REFERENCES:

Tiehm, A. 1983. Field search for proposed threatened and endangered plants on Phillips Petroleum lease unit in the Desert Peak area of Churchill County, Nevada. Carson City: Nevada Natural Heritage Program files.

Tiehm, A. 1989. Survey for *Oryctes nevadensis*, Churchill County, Nevada. Reno, Nevada: Environmental Management Associates. 8 pages.

OF FURTHER INTEREST: The only species in its distinctive genus. The name is pronounced "or-ICK-tees."
